



Jordan Times

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Greek envoy visits Amman

AMMAN (R) — A Greek envoy arrived in Jordan Sunday, an embassy official said. The envoy, Secretary-General Panagiotis Karamanolis, was on a mission to strengthen relations between Greece and Jordan. He will meet with King Hussein and other officials. The envoy is expected to stay in Amman for several days.

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Arafat meets Iceland premier

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks with the prime minister of Iceland Sunday. The meeting was the first official contact between the two sides. Arafat praised the Icelandic people's support for the Palestinian cause. He also discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the need for international support.

Mongolian leaders arrive in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Mongolia's president and his Communist Party leader arrived in the Soviet Union Sunday for talks expected to focus on the political and social reforms under way in both nations. President Punsainagin Ochirbat and Communist Party General Secretary Gombogovyn Ochirbat, both in office since March, were met by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. The TASS news agency reported, Mongolia, which has been ruled for nearly seven decades by the Communist Party and long has been dependent on the Soviet Union for political guidance and economic assistance, was swept by reforms this year.

Sammy Davis Jr. said dying

LOS ANGELES (R) — Close friend Sunday called on Sammy Davis Jr. by his doctor to be dying of throat cancer, while Davis was in his Beverly Hills home. "Sammy is resting comfortably with his loved ones around him, and that is the way he wants it," said Davis' physician Dr. Irving Posalski. Davis, 64, returned home from Cedars Sinai Hospital March 13 to be with his third wife, Altovise, after undergoing eight weeks of chemotherapy. The couple recently adopted a 13-year-old boy, Mummy. Flowers and letters from well-wishers are pouring into the Davis home, said his press agent, Susan Reynolds.

Iran says drug ring smashed

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards smashed an international drug ring, arresting nine smugglers and seizing 500 kilos of morphine, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the traffickers were seized at a village on the outskirts of Oranjestad in the province of west Azerbaijan in northwestern Iran. It quoted a guards official as saying the ring leaders of the gang were based in Turkey, naming them as Borzou Farrokh, Rostam Sayyad and Salim Sayyad. It was not clear whether they were among those arrested. The official said the gang has smuggled at least two tons of narcotics to Turkey and Europe via Pakistan and Iran. Iranian authorities launched a big crackdown on drug smugglers 1½ years ago. More than 100 convicted smugglers have been executed this year alone.

Tunisian Islamists held after clashes

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian police arrested dozens of Muslim fundamentalists Saturday and Sunday after clashes overnight in the north Tunis suburb of Ben Khaldoun, sources close to the Islamic movement said. Witnesses said the clashes broke out when the fundamentalists were leaving a mosque where an Islamist teacher had been lecturing. The fundamentalists set fire to a police vehicle and a policeman was injured, they said. Police brought in reinforcements and fired tear gas but fighting continued until after midnight, they added. The area was calm again Sunday morning.

All set for 'right of return' march

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final recommendations of the Arab professional associations meeting which ended here Sunday will be read today at the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan at the end of a "right of return" march which is expected to draw 20,000 participants from all over the Kingdom.

The march, organized by Jordanian professional associations, has received support from the United Nations and the Palestinian uprising in a communique issued in the past few days.

Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that the United Nations and the Palestinian uprising in a communique issued in the past few days.

The marchers will carry Jordanian and Palestinian flags as well as banners emphasizing the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland and to establish an independent Palestinian state and denouncing the growing influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the Israeli-occupied territories.

Settler opens fire, wounds 1 critically

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli motorist in the occupied West Bank opened fire on a group of stone-throwing protesters Sunday and critically wounded a 14-year-old witness said.

The shooting occurred near the Jewish settlement of Elkana where Israelis were planning to celebrate the town's 13th "birthday" Sunday. The ceremony will be attended by President Chaim Herzog and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

Witnesses told Reuters an Israeli-owned car was stoned while passing through the centre of Qalqiya in the West Bank some 10 kilometres from Elkana. The motorist got out of the car and opened fire, shooting Samih Eid Abu Sheikh twice in the head, the witnesses said. Military sources confirmed Abu Sheikh was wounded but said police were investigating the circumstances.

About 100 activists of the Peace Now protest movement planned to demonstrate at Elkana Sunday against what they called official sanction of disputed settlement by the president and chief of staff.

A Herzog aide said the president's participation in the Elkana ceremony should not be interpreted as giving legitimacy to settlement in the occupied territories.

Herzog served as a parliamentarian for the centrist Labour Party before his election to the presidency, a post meant to be politically neutral. In the past Herzog has angered leftists by commending the sentences of extreme right-wing Israelis convicted of killing Arabs.

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King receives summit invitation

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received an invitation from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to attend an emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad May 28.

The invitation was conveyed to King Hussein by Iraqi Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qader Ali, who arrived here Sunday.

President Hussein Sunday sent a number of ministers to the various Arab capitals carrying invitations to their respective leaders to attend the summit.

The Iraqi News Agency said Transport Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi carried a summit invitation from President Hussein "addressed to his brother, Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi."

Libya has not yet said whether it will attend the summit, called to debate the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. Syria refuses to attend if the summit is held in Baghdad.

The agency said the minister had a similar invitation for Mauritania's President Maouya Ould Sid Ahmad Taya.

Eighteen of the Arab League's 22 members have agreed to attend the summit, two days before a meeting in Washington between President George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baghdad secured important backing when King Fahd of Saudi Arabia agreed to attend in person, following a visit to Riyadh Saturday by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Syrian newspapers Sunday criticised the proposed summit and one said the Syrian boycott would make the meeting meaningless.

"We in Syria, in our belief that any Arab meeting should be effective, feel the proposed summit will be no more than a propaganda action lacking any effectiveness because differences still exist (among Arabs)," said the official daily Al Baath.

"It is natural that Syria will not take part and the summit will lose its meaning with Syria's absence," contended Tishreen newspaper.

Tishreen listed six issues besides Jewish emigration which it said a summit should tackle: "Unilateral deals" and attempts to split the Arab camp in its conflict with Israel.

Pressure by Zionists on Washington to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and support Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The headline attitude of the Israeli government towards Palestinians.

Support for the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands and for Arab states bordering Israel.

Arab solidarity in dealings with the rest of the world.

Lebanon's civil war.

No shift in Soviet stand on Mideast or PLO, envoy says

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Soviet diplomat Sunday dismissed suggestions that Moscow was limiting its role in the Middle East and stressed that there had been no "radical" shift in his country's position towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Ambassador-at-Large Igor Urtvich Andropov also said that he did not "foresee" a restoration of diplomatic ties between the Soviet Union and Israel, severed after the 1967 war, prior to or outside the context of a comprehensive peace settlement in the

Middle East.

"We have not changed our principled commitment to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East or support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," said Andropov, who Monday concluded a three-day visit to Jordan.

Senior Soviet diplomats here told the Jordan Times that Palestine President and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Moscow soon to discuss the PLO's relations with the Soviet Union and Middle East peace efforts. The diplomats said that the date for Arafat's visit was not yet set but that it would be "in the very near future."

Andropov denied that Moscow's relationship with the

PLO had been strained over the issue of massive immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. In recent weeks, PLO officials levelled unprecedented criticism against Moscow's role encouraging Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

"I do not see any serious problem between us and the PLO," Andropov said.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Andropov revealed that Moscow was studying a request by the PLO to allow Soviet Jews to retain their Soviet passports so that they can return to their native land any time in the future. Asked why this measure was not taken prior to the beginning of the recent massive influx of Soviet

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives Gambian President Dawda Jawara upon the president's arrival here on a state visit (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

King, Jawara discuss Mideast, Africa issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Gambian President Dawda Jawara Sunday discussed the situation in the Middle East and Africa with particular focus on the issues to be addressed, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King and the Gambian leader, who arrived here early Sunday on a state visit, discussed bilateral ties and scopes of cooperation in light of the latest international developments and changes, Petra said.

The Associated Press reported that Jordan and Gambia were expected to establish diplomatic relations during Jawara's visit to the Kingdom.

Petra said that during his talks with the visiting leader, the King paid tribute to Gambia's position vis-a-vis issues of the Middle East. The King stressed the importance of further bolstering Jordan's relations with Gambia in view of the African country's status in the Organisation of Islamic

Conference and the Western Africa Cooperation Council. Jawara praised the King's leadership and noted Jordan's achievements in development, Petra said. The Jordanian experience in various fields enjoy the full appreciation of not only Gambia but also other African countries, he was quoted as saying by Petra.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Za'id, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Culture Minister Khalid Karaki. On the Gambian side, the talks were attended by the foreign minister, the cabinet's secretary general, the Gambian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the army commander and the first assistant to the foreign minister.

Jawara was given a state welcome upon his arrival. Jawara and his wife were greeted by King Hussein, cabinet ministers and high-level officials.

O'Connor blasts hospice seizure

NEW YORK (Agencies) — New York's highest-ranking Catholic cleric, Cardinal John O'Connor, has condemned as obscene a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem and said the Israeli government acted reprehensibly by helping to fund the move.

In his weekly column in a newspaper published by the New York Archdiocese, O'Connor said that some Catholics perceived the settlement as "a signal of a conspiracy to grab lands all over Israel currently occupied by Christians."

American Jewish leaders denounced O'Connor's remarks as "shocking and provocative," and said they could cause tensions between Christian and Jewish communities both in the United States and Israel.

"What has happened in Jerusalem is obscene. In my judgment, the Israeli government has acted reprehensibly," wrote O'Connor, the archbishop of New York. He cited charges that the Israelis are "speeding up... a design to make it virtually impossible for Christians to function anywhere in the land."

The settlements in a hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox Church was the first in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's walled Old City since Israel occupied the area along with the rest of East Jerusalem in 1967.

Jewish groups, including many which have sharply criticised the settlement in the Christian quarter, reacted angrily to O'Connor's remarks, especially his comments that there are "perceptions on the part of some that the move of the settlers is only a signal of a conspiracy to grab land all over

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Shamir's 'peace guidelines' exclude Arab Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AP) — If Yitzhak Shamir forms a new Israeli government, he will adopt tougher policy guidelines which an aide said Sunday will specifically exclude occupied Arab Jerusalem from the agenda of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"It (the new policy) says that Jerusalem will not be part of the autonomy" envisioned for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said an aide

to Shamir who demanded anonymity.

The liberal Haaretz daily said the new Jerusalem policy was part of the 32-paragraph set of guidelines drawn up in recent days for a new government by Justice Minister Dan Meridor and cabinet minister Moshe Nissim.

The guidelines, which stress that a "united Jerusalem" is "Israel's eternal capital," would also bar the Palestinian residents



John O'Connor
Israel currently occupied by Christians.

O'Connor praised Jerusalem's Teddy Kolek, and American Jewish groups that had voiced protests against the settlement, but said that the Israeli government appeared to be either ignorant or insensitive to "the perceptions by many Christians of what the incident implies and forebodes."

Aziz in Rome to meet U.N. chief

ROME (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Rome Sunday for talks later in the week on the "no-peace-no-war" deadlock that followed the Gulf war.

Airport officials said Aziz and Perez de Cuellar arrived on separate planes at Ciampino military airport within about 30 minutes of each other. They were not thought to have met there.

Aziz told the Iraqi News Agency the meeting Monday would discuss "proposals made by Perez de Cuellar to arrange for a new round of direct talks between Iraq and Iran."

Iran's fundamentalist leaders displayed open interest this week in a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which called for face-to-face talks with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

According to regional press reports, the Iraqi message also suggested that negotiations over border issues could begin from the Algerians accord — a 1975 pact which Iraq declared null and void shortly before the start of the 1980-88 war.

Rafsanjani said last week that he saw "some signs" of good intentions from Iraq. "The Tehran Times, which reflects the president's thinking, said the Iraqi letter raised hopes and Aziz's meeting with the U.N. secretary-general would give Baghdad a chance to show whether it was sincere."

In Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Perez de Cuellar was finishing a two-week European tour in Rome. He was expected to meet Aziz, on a private visit, to discuss the stalemate in the Iraq-Iran peace process Monday.



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Brotherhood restates hardline approach, rejects peace marches

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood Sunday reaffirmed its rejection of a peace settlement with Israel and announced its refusal to take part in any demonstration or march calling for negotiations with the Jewish state.

Instead of calling for peace with Israel, said a spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood, "we remain steadfast on our call for holy war to liberate all of Palestine."

Abdul Latif Arabiyat, a member of the Lower House of Parliament and spokesman for the Islamist bloc in the House, told a press conference that the movement would not officially participate in a march scheduled Monday to the bridge across the River Jordan organised by Arab unions and professional associations.

Arabiyat said the Muslim Brotherhood had initially supported the march's central theme, which included a call for the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, but "now they are calling for peace with Israel."

One of the slogans expected to be raised by Monday's marchers is: "Yes to an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)." Arabiyat reiterated the Brotherhood's rejection of the two-state solution pursued by the PLO.

"We will not participate in the march because we feel that its slogans are not compatible with our movement's principles," he said. "We are calling for jihad (holy war) to liberate all of Palestine; how can we participate in a march which calls for a small Palestinian state alongside the Zionist entity?"

Mohammad Abu Fares, another Muslim Brotherhood deputy who also attended the press conference, further explained that his group had accepted to support Monday's march on the basis that its central theme would be the dangers inherent in the massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the responsibility of both superpowers for bringing it about. "But now we understand that the slogans of the march have been changed," he said. "We reject and oppose any move which exonerates the Soviet Union, which shares a major part of the responsibility for the massive emigration to Palestine."

According to organisers, there are no slogans expected to be raised during the march singling out the Soviet Union as the major party responsible for the massive wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

Arabiyat reiterated the Brotherhood's opposition to another march planned by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and a national organising committee. He said the Brotherhood was calling on the organisers of the march, originally scheduled for June 1-3 but later postponed until Nov. 29, to "reconsider the objectives of the march."

The main theme of the ADC-organised march is a call for a two-state solution and negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Arabiyat said the Brotherhood welcomed the organisers' decision to postpone the march, but said: "We hope that they would reevaluate their plans and turn their attention to the United States arena."

U.S. policy assailed

Arabiyat, reading a prepared statement, also launched a fierce attack on the United States, accusing it of "treason, with determination and purpose, a camp of evil forces which fight our Arab and Islamic nations."

"The history of the United States' dealings with our nations and our causes, particularly the sacred Palestinian cause, is full of slaps, punches and stab wounds against the dignity of the Arab Nation and the courage of Islamic Nation," he said. "It started with U.S. President Woodrow Wilson (in 1918)... and continues with today's Congress."

"This American position should always be an incentive for our Arab and Islamic nations to put an end to the policy of subservience which engulfs us and which humiliates the U.S. to escalate its plots against our nation by making us pursue submission and degradation..." said Arabiyat, a deputy from Balqa governorate. "Our Arab and Islamic nation should adopt a dignified Arab-Islamic position that would put an end to the American moves and prove to it that the Arab and Islamic dignity is stronger than all attempts to assimilate and insult our nations."

The Muslim Brotherhood's reaffirmation of its hardline position as evident in the opposition to both marches was interpreted by political observers as a spillover of the decades-old conflicting viewpoints and approaches adopted by the PLO and Islamic fundamentalists. These differences have become more pronounced in recent days in statements and moves adopted by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the PLO-supported underground leaders of the 29-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A senior PLO official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the organisation would not be officially participating in Monday's march, but individual Palestinian personalities might take part. "The PLO position was seen by observers as a move to avoid further splits with the fundamentalists at a time when the organisation is engaged in a dialogue with a view to drawing them into the mainstream Palestinian leadership."

Arabiyat reiterated a call issued earlier by the Brotherhood for an Islamic army. According to Abu Fares, "We hope that the Jordanian people will be the nucleus for the Islamic army. We hope to train every man, woman and the elderly to carry weapons to defend this nation and Jordanian soil."

Constitution and charter

Both Arabiyat and Abu Fares said Monday's press conference that the Brotherhood, the largest bloc in the Lower House with 22 seats, was seeking to address what it sees as "contradictions of Islamic laws in the (Jordanian) Constitution."

According to Abu Fares, some provisions in the Constitution "allow what is prohibited in Islam and prohibit what is allowed in Islam while one of the basic foundations of the Constitution is the reaffirmation that Islam is the formal religion of the country."

In separate comments to the Jordan Times, Arabiyat said the Brotherhood, which joined the General Commission on drafting the national charter after objecting to the concept of the charter earlier, was seeking to clarify and reaffirm the points in the Constitution through the national charter.

Replying to questions at the press conference, Arabiyat said the government had "fulfilled part of its commitments" made to the Brotherhood and the movement was "following up actions to ensure that the commitments are met in full." He did not elaborate, but referred the media to an "activity paper" produced by the Brotherhood.

In the paper, which summarised the activities of the Brotherhood in Parliament, the movement said it had submitted five documents to the House dealing with the economic crisis in Jordan, corruption, public freedoms, moral law, cost of living and unemployment.

The paper listed several measures adopted by the government as full or partial moves in "response to the demands of the Brotherhood." These included a government move to prevent any law contradicting Islam, the formation of a committee to draft a law on financial accountability of senior government officials, release of frozen passports and lifting of travel bans, the establishment of a faculty of Sharia at Yarmouk University, approvals for setting up an Islamic academy and an Islamic university, guarantees for freedom of press and freedom of opinion, reinstatement of a number of employees dismissed for political/security reasons, release of security/political detainees, abolishing security clearance as a prerequisite of government jobs, taking first steps towards abolishing usury, ban on serving alcohol aboard Royal Jordanian flights to Arab and Islamic countries, support for the infidels, a draft law on regulating the judiciary system, moves towards allowing a union for teachers, an austerity budget and initiation of legal proceedings against corrupt officials.

The paper said several of these measures went only part of the way in meeting the demands in full. These included the Brotherhood's calls for a total ban against Muslims producing, trading or consuming alcohol, the release of all "political/security" prisoners, the reinstatement of all those dismissed from their jobs for political reasons and support for the infidels.

On the last issue, the paper said while there was a "marked change in support of the infidels, it remains below the desired level." It also complained that the media was ignoring Hamas and its role in the infidels.

In his comments Sunday, Arabiyat said the Muslim Brotherhood was "committed to freedom of the press as emphasised in our election manifesto." He said his group believed that new newspapers, magazines and other publications should be immediately licensed without waiting for the proposed national charter to be finalised.

The government has said that new newspapers and politically oriented magazines would be licensed only after the finalisation of the charter, which is expected to set the guidelines for legislation of political parties in the Kingdom.

Turkey denies water deal with Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkey's Ambassador to Jordan Oktay Aksoy said in a statement to the press published here Sunday that his country did not strike a deal with the Israeli government to sell it Turkish water.

"It is true that a Canadian company operating in Turkey has concluded a deal to sell water from Turkey to Israel but the Canadian company had announced its readiness to sell water from Turkey to any country in the Middle East including Jordan," the ambassador said.

Aksoy was reacting to earlier press reports about a deal between Israel and Turkey under which the latter would sell a total of 2.3 million cubic metres of water annually to the Jewish state.

"There is no need for worry or jumping to conclusions before a full report by the Turkish government on the matter has been issued," the ambassador said.

"Turkey is keen on safeguarding its relations with the Arab World and therefore it is now studying a plan to lay two pipelines to draw water from Turkey to the Arab region, passing through Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states," the ambassador added.

Last December Turkey decided to cut off the flow of the Euphrates river for one month in order to fill the reservoir of the Ataturk dam, a decision which was reported to have precipitated a crisis between Turkey, Syria and Iraq.

Industrial fair to be extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — An industrial fair due to end Sunday was extended until Monday, according to the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) which organised the fair at the Amman International Fair Centre in Marj al-Hamam.

A JCCC statement said that between Wednesday and Saturday more than 10,000 persons, including diplomats, businessmen, merchants and individual citizens visited the fair and that several business deals have been concluded.

A total of 64 Jordanian firms and factories have been displaying samples of their products, used in construction works, at the fair which was opened by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz.

According to Maher Arabiyat, the fair's director, materials like glass, cement, brick, wires and cables, metal pipes, paint, nails, radiators, boilers, solar heaters, marble tiles, fibre glass, doors and shutters were among the various products on display.

The Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department, the Royal Scientific Society and the Jordan Electricity Authority cooperated in organising the fair.

Ministry of industry officials said JD 112.3 million, in capital, are invested in the construction materials industries in Jordan which employ more than 6,000 workers.

Ministry denies new AIDS cases

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health Sunday denied reports published in Al Dustour newspaper about the discovery of two new cases of the killer disease AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and said that the present number of cases of AIDS victims in Jordan stood at 38.

Out of these seven have already died or left the country while the rest are being either proven cases of victims of AIDS or AIDS carriers placed under strict surveillance, according to Health Ministry officials who preferred anonymity.

The officials were commenting on a report in Al Dustour daily Sunday on the discovery of two AIDS cases of an Omani and a Chinese student in Jordan.

The report quoted Dr. Mialeh Tarawneh, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, as saying that the Chinese student has already left

Education systems in the Arab World need revision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arabs of learning age are estimated now at 50 million and expected to increase to 73 million by the end of the present century, according to a draft resolution about education for the Arab World in the coming century.

The draft, presented during the second day of the three-day meeting organised here by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) also pointed out that 23 million Arabs looking for jobs for the first time in their life in the Arab World in 1990 will increase to 37 million by the year 2000.

The draft resolution was presented by Dr. Saadeeddin Ibrahim, ATF's secretary general,

who also reviewed various educational problems expected to face the nation at the start of the coming century should the present educational situation remain the same.

"Given the present systems of education and the same circumstances, the problem of unemployment will aggravate and more educated citizens will find themselves without jobs," he said.

"Pursuing the same educational systems in the Arab World, he said, is bound to lead to a real catastrophe and education will become a real problem adding to the other numerous problems facing the nation," Ibrahim said.

The draft resolution suggested gradual improvement in the educational system by re-examining aims, policies and contents of educational material and linking learning to the actual needs of the local communities.

The draft also contained information and statistics about the Arab World's population, the present educational systems, ideas about future strategies, training of teachers and financing education.

The ATF conference, due to end Monday, is expected to contain a declaration outlining the resolution and other ideas about education in the Arab World in the 21st century.

Medical council stresses commitment

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Sunday stressed the need to provide advanced health care covering all medical specialisations to all Arab citizens.

Addressing the 12th session of the Scientific Council for Gynecologists (SCG), an affiliate of the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations (ACMS), Hamdan called for training the medical personnel to enable them shoulder their responsibilities and devise new methods for countering diseases.

Chairman of the SCG Aref Bataineh reviewed the achievements made by gynecologists, saying they still have a long way to go in order to achieve the great objective of serving patients and upgrading the profession.

Bataineh said the medical profession in general and the gynecologists in particular, is "no longer a treatment process through which we compete to demonstrate our capacity and scientific and professional excellence, but rather a community assignment, which takes into consideration the interest of the individual and the community as a whole."

Secretary-general of the ACMS Awad Abu Dajajeh summarised the council's specialisations, saying it aims at improving medical services in the Arab World and drawing up specifications for training packages.

He also reviewed the council's activities and achievements in the light of the world technological changes and developments.

The council includes representatives of Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, North and South Yemen.

Seminar reviews pollution, protection of environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Sunday organised a seminar on environment pollution in local communities and the delegates reviewed eight research papers dealing with means of combating pollution and spreading awareness about the issue.

Addressing the opening session, university Deputy President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit said the University of Jordan was giving due attention to the subject of pollution and the protection of the environment through a special Human Resources Development Centre at the university.

Bakhit called on municipal and village councils, organisations and members of the public to do all they can to protect the environment.

Dr. Qandil Shaker, the centre's director, outlined the programmes being implemented by the centre and the seminars and meetings designed to spread

awareness about the need for protecting the environment in Jordan.

The eight research papers reviewed at the meeting covered such topics as dangers of pesticides, wastewater, danger to the ozone layer, and means of dealing with pollution.

The participants represented the World Health Organisation, several government ministries, the Royal Scientific Society as well as the University of Jordan.

Members of the Jordanian professional associations were asked to help in the transportation process by using their private cars in carrying participants from the gathering centres in Amman and the governorates.

'Return march' kicks off Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The public Arab march which is organised by the Jordanian professional unions and public committees will start Monday, May 14, 1990, the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine.

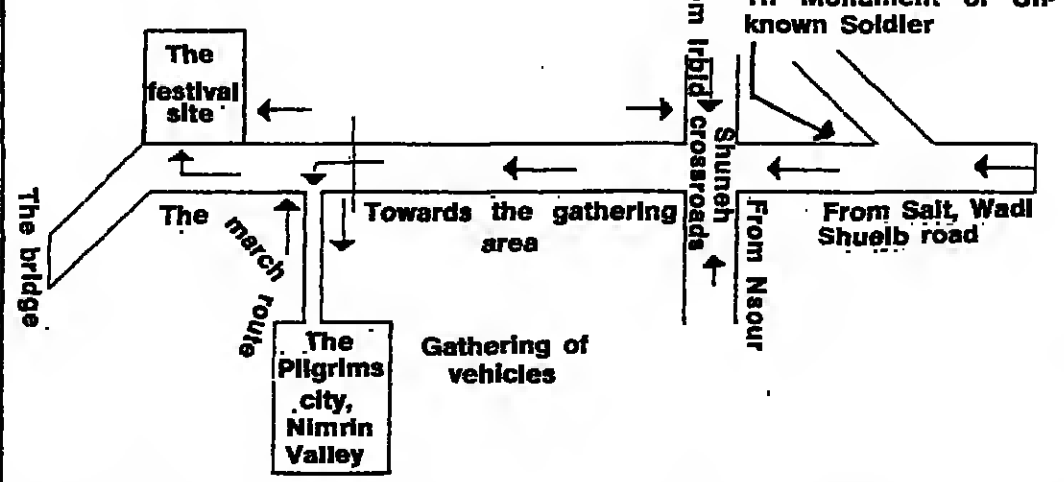
The 'return march', as it is called, will start from the Pilgrims City (Madinat Al Hujja) in Nimrin Valley at 10:00 in the morning and will proceed to the King Hussein bridge.

Public committees were invited

by the organising committee to participate in the march and were asked to carry banners that comply with the text of the unified slogans prepared by the organising committee.

The organising committee has asked any participating committee representing an institution or a group of persons, to form a sub-committee to take charge of keeping order within the group during the march.

Participants in the march were asked to secure the means of transportation, which, the committee said, should preferably be collective (buses), and were asked to bring food and drinking water with them.



NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan visits military units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday paid a visit to the southern region's military units, where he was received by the region's commander and senior officers. After listening to a briefing by the commander of the region, the Crown Prince voiced satisfaction with the good standards of performance and training the units have achieved.

Princess Sarvath opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Saturday opened an art exhibition by George Sarkis Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute. The four-day exhibition displays 45 paintings depicting the history and the civilisation of Jordan, Palestine and Syria. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and the director of the Goethe Institute in Amman.

Al Faqr visits Ramtha

RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr Saturday visited Al Ramtha city where he inspected the 'pilgrims city'. During the visit a committee chaired by Ramtha district Governor Hussein Al Hahashneh was formed to supervise construction works at the city, in order to make it ready within two weeks to receive the Turkish pilgrims passing through the Kingdom. Jordan is expected to receive about 150,000 Turkish pilgrims, according to an agreement which was signed between the Ministry of Awqaf and the Turkish government.

Rawabdeh to visit Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation, headed by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, will arrive in Syria Wednesday on a two-day official visit for talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and coordination in implementing the new Amman-Damascus road. The delegation comprises director general of Customs Department, director of the Borders and Foreigners' Affairs Department and director of Roads Department at the Public Works Department.

ACC ministers to review energy cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The meeting of ministers of electricity and energy of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states which was scheduled to convene in Amman on May 29 and 30 will be postponed until June 19 due to emergency engagements of a number of participating ministers, an official source at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said Saturday. The official said the ministerial meeting will be preceded by a meeting for specialised technicians and experts from the ministries of electricity and energy from the ACC states on 17 and 18.

France condemns Israeli's policy

AMMAN (Petra) — The French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard Sunday voiced his country's denunciation of the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. In a cable he sent to Kamel El Sharif, chairman of the executive committee of the General Islamic Conference for Bait Al Maqdis (Jerusalem), Bauchard said that France's delegate to the United Nations had stressed this position during the United Nations Security Council's deliberations March 29. The General Islamic Conference for Bait Al Maqdis had earlier issued a circular to the diplomatic missions in Amman, reviewing the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and highlighting the dangers inherent in the U.S. Senate decision on Jerusalem.

IDB grants JD 1.235m in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has approved granting nine loans worth JD 1.235 million to development projects in the country. Of the total sum, JD 990,000 will finance six industrial projects, and 245,000 will finance the construction works of three hotels, two in Amman and one in Irbid. Of the six industrial loans five were allocated for industries that produce shampoo, shaving cream, air conditioners, cassettes, shoes and hags. The sixth loan will finance an industrial project to produce cartridges for shotguns. Since the beginning of 1990 the IDB granted 35 loans worth JD 5.938 million for financing industrial and tourist projects.

Chinese delegation arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-member delegation representing the Chinese Meteorological Department arrived here Saturday on an official visit to Jordan for talks on bilateral cooperation in the field of meteorology. The delegation will also visit the National Centre for Weather Forecasts and several archaeological and tourist sites.

Seminar on tetanus opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day workshop on neonatal tetanus, starts here Monday, with representatives of the Eastern Mediterranean and North African countries participating. The workshop, which is organised by the World Health Organisation in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, aims at exchanging expertise on the best means to combat neonatal tetanus and to protect mothers and fetus from this deadly disease.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- Plastic art exhibition by Amir Abu Judeh, Samia Al Bourni and Hadil Bassam at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of paintings depicting national heritage, nature and the Arab woman by Laila Al Shawwa at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- Exhibition of original aerial photos by Jane Taylor at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).
- Book exhibition at Mu'ta University.
- Art exhibition by George Sarkis Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute.
- Art exhibition by Iham Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by students of Nazareth Sisters School at the French Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- English play entitled "The Brothie's Family" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.)

LECTURE

- Lecture by Dr. Swee-Chai Ang entitled "My Experience in the Abhi Hospital in Ghana" at 11:00 a.m. at the Concord Cinema and at 7:00 p.m. at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.

SYMPOSIUM

- Symposium on "Children's Literature" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 9:00 a.m.

ACC countries seek cooperation in tourism

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tourist and travel offices in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries Sunday announced the creation of an association that would organise and regulate tourist activities within the four countries and promote cooperation among them.

A statement following a two-day meeting here said the association will be headed for the first term by Yasser Abul Saoud, president of the Jordan Travel Agents Association.

Abul Saoud, who also heads the Federation of Arab Tourist Offices, said that the federation ended a two-day meeting at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman Sunday and decided that Amman should be the venue for the federation's headquarters.

Abul Saoud was elected the federation's secretary-general and in charge of the headquarters activities.

According to Abul Saoud, the federation decided to amend its laws so as to cope with the present developments in the tourism industry and to work out integrated Arab tourist projects benefiting the Arab World.

He said the federation also decided to increase seminars and training courses for tourist staff employed in the tourism business, to encourage Arab governments to facilitate tourism among Arab countries and to launch campaigns designed to increase Arab investments in tourism projects.

The new association will try to market the four countries' tourist attractions abroad and will try to raise capital for investments in tourist projects in the four countries," he said.

"A special committee is to take charge of the new association

Jordan Times

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Water and energy problems and remedies

TWO fundamental issues have been simultaneously discussed by Jordanian authorities before they become insolvable. One is the water shortage and pollution, and the other is the energy problem which the Kingdom is projected to encounter in the coming years. The first danger has been discussed most recently at the level of the prime minister and senior government officials, and debated earlier within the context of a regional seminar on sustainable rural water supply development under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Economic Development Institution (EDI) of the World Bank and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Water Authority. The purpose of the seminar was to look into new sources of water, including non-traditional ones like recycling treated wastewater for farming purposes and desalination of sea water. Rationalisation of water use was of course uppermost on the minds of the participants at the seminar as this aspect is projected to be the overriding issue no matter what new water sources are improvised by one way or another.

In the realm of energy, the fact that the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is actively undertaking a feasibility study to set up a gigantic solar power plant that can produce no less than 30 megawatts of electricity is also a very timely preparatory action to face up to the imminent needs of the country in the coming few years.

The fact that the concerned Jordanian authorities are thinking of, studying and taking action on remedial measures to encounter two of the most formidable threats poised at Jordan's doorstep, proves that the country is taking the bull by the horn and where when necessary and is getting adequately ready in the face of these imminent dangers. Jordanians can feel more secure than ever now that they know that Amman is preparing the country for the future years with seriousness and determination. By confronting the water and energy problems head on, the country would be on safer grounds to tackle other dimensions of its development. These two principal challenges of the future have haunted the country for so long and it is a great relief that they are being debated and considered with all the vigour and stamina that the country can muster. In many ways to redress water and energy shortages and problems in an attempt to rectify them constitutes some form of an insurance policy for the future of the country that is urgently needed.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Sunday commented on a two-day meeting by representatives of professional associations in the Arab World and the topics to be discussed. The most pressing issue before these professionals as well as the whole Arab Nation in the coming summit is the Jewish immigration into Palestine and the continued challenge posed to the Arabs by Israel's policies and occupation of holy places, said the paper. It echoed Prime Minister Mudar Badran's address to the conference in which he reiterated Jordan's pledge to stand by the Palestinians at all costs and determination to rally Arab ranks for the sake of defending the holy places. The paper said that the conference is a cry out for all Arabs and Muslims and an appeal to the international community to help end the Israeli atrocities and stop the immigration of Jews into lands owned lawfully by the Palestinian people. The conference is a call on the Arab leaderships to join forces and end side differences and stand together in the face of the common challenges, the paper continued. The conference, it stressed, is a reminder to the Arabs that they should meet at the summit level and should boldly face the common threats to the Arab Order and Arab security.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the Ministry of Education for its inconsiderate decisions concerning educational issues of concern to schools, students and parents. Salah Abdul Samad particularly singles out a recent decision by the Ministry of Education for cancelling the so-called spring holiday in the coming 1990/1991 scholastic year, only to rescind the decision a few weeks later. Does this indicate that the Ministry of Education takes time and effort in reaching decisions, or are decisions taken at random without ample consideration? the writer asks. There is a contradiction here between the two decisions and the justifications given for them; and there is a mystery about who takes such decisions, says Abdul Samad. The writer expresses his belief that the confusion behind all this is due to the fact that the minister has the upperhand, even though his views could mean contradicting decisions taken a few weeks earlier. Abdul Samad says the ministry ought to take into consideration all aspects of the educational process before issuing decisions, if the process is to remain stable and achieve its goals.

Al Dustour daily commented on Prince Hassan's address to the Arab Thought Forum conference about Arab education pointing to the developments in the educational fields witnessed in the Arab World over the past two decades. The paper reiterated the Prince's statement that the Arab World endeavours to pursue the march for development and education has been hampered in its efforts by the regional conflicts as well as the huge debts and poor economies. But, it said, that luminous events occurred in the 1980s and favourable developments emerged that can give the Arabs renewed hope for the future. It said that the new Arab awakening and the Arab countries' realisation of the need to unite, can give impetus to all efforts being taken in the field of education and development at all levels. The paper said that the new decade will be decisive for the Arab Nation which will have to embark on a new initiative towards further solidarity, development and progress.

Palestinians sure uprising can survive right-wing government

By Sami Abundi
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians in the occupied territories, convinced an expected right-wing Israeli government will increase repression, say they are confident their revolt can survive a new onslaught.

"We are ready for the new, and perhaps the most dangerous phase in the history of the intifada (uprising), which I believe would not end the revolt," said Professor Sari Nusseibeh, a mainstream Palestinian nationalist leader.

Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is trying to put together a coalition with far-right and religious parties sworn to put down the 29-month-long Palestinian revolt.

Aides said they were not sure if Shamir would succeed in forming a cabinet this week or require a 21-day extension of his presidential mandate, but they ruled out another national unity government with the dovish Labour party.

Palestinians say unlike the former coalition between Labour and Shamir's hardline Likud par-

ty, a right-wing government would be less sensitive to international pressure and would spare no method to crush the uprising.

Shamir's 15-month-old coalition with Labour collapsed in March when he refused to endorse U.S. proposals to hold the first Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in Cairo. Palestinians expect a rightist Shamir cabinet would freeze peace efforts.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"The new government will send us back to square one from a political standpoint," said Ghasan Al Khatib, a Communist academic.

"A senior Israeli defence official said despite fatigue and internal divisions, the motivation of Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue the intifada remains unbroken.

Many Palestinians say they expect the worst of a right-wing government — more bloodshed, expulsions, house demolitions and economic strangulation for the already battered 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank

and Gaza Strip.

Intellectuals and activists say the uprising has gained new momentum in the last month, with almost daily widespread clashes as Palestinians try to seize the initiative again and vent their frustration at the fading prospect for peace talks.

In its latest regular leaflet, the PLO-backed unified leadership of the uprising had called for "more painful strikes against the enemy's army and settlers with stones and firebombs" to confront a right-wing government.

"Unfortunately we are going to face more loss of life and other losses in the near future," said Nusseibeh who believes that he and other East Jerusalem activists could be expelled after the new government is formed.

Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed at least 648 Palestinians and wounded tens of thousands since the outbreak of the uprising in December 1987.

Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, a senior Likud figure, has repeatedly called for the expulsion of 50 leading Palestinian nationalists and for the closure of PLO-backed Arab newspapers, research organisa-

tions and trade unions.

Sharon, who masterminded the 1982 invasion of Lebanon to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is demanding the defence portfolio in a new government.

But Shamir aides ruled out the former paratrooper general for the key ministry.

"We know Sharon very well here," said Dr. Ahmad Al Yazji, a leading PLO supporter in the Gaza Strip, recalling that Sharon, as the army's southern commander, led an iron-fisted campaign to root out guerrillas in the area in 1970.

"Then he was dealing with 250 guerrillas, but now he has to deal with a million Palestinians who feel that their lives hinge on the continuation of the intifada," Yazji said.

"The intifada will intensify its challenge not only to Shamir but also to Sharon, who keeps bragging that if he becomes defence minister he will end the intifada."

"Even if he called the entire Israeli army out, he could not end the revolt," said a senior underground activist in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Expectations are modest for Bush-Gorbachev summit

By Barry Schweld
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The timing of President George Bush's moves on the chemical weapons front are linked to slow progress on other arms control accords and the proximity of the May 30-June 3 superpower summit.

The president is aiming for an agreement with Moscow — provided he gets it on his terms — to sharply reduce U.S. and Soviet stockpiles of poison gas. According to recent reports, Bush is willing to halt production of U.S. chemical weapons.

Bush wants to do some serious business with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev during the summit. Otherwise the two leaders could be accused of unproductive posturing.

Months ago, when the summit was scheduled, it looked like an agreement could be ready to reduce long-range nuclear missiles, bombers and

submarines.

Only wild optimists expected a finished treaty for Bush and Gorbachev to sign. The issues are complex, and any verification system requires an enormous amount of work and trust.

But considering the Soviet leader's determination to cut nuclear arms and Bush's positive response after an initial delay, the plan was to celebrate the summit with a strategic arms agreement in principle on key issues.

Bush and Gorbachev would, initially, the framework accord, and up to 50 per cent of the most dangerous weapons in the world would be consigned to the scrap heap after U.S. and Soviet negotiators in Geneva worked out the details.

But with Gorbachev due here in less than three weeks, the two sides are still far apart. For example: they have

agreed tentatively to eliminate land-based ballistic missiles with multiple warheads. But the Soviets want to extend the ban to such missiles carried by submarines. That is an area of U.S. strength and the administration is hailing.

The Soviets also want to make deeper cuts in air-launched cruise missiles than the United States is willing to accept. The reason is the Pentagon plans a new missile above the cutoff range proposed by Moscow.

Negotiations between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact have also slowed in Vienna on another treaty to reduce troops, tanks and other non-nuclear arms in Europe.

The plan was to have the heads of 35 countries, including Bush and Gorbachev, sign the treaty at a European summit before the end of the year. There is still some hope of reaching that goal.

when Secretary of State James Baker holds talks in Moscow next week with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. But they failed to make serious headway only last week in Bonn.

Thus, a chemical weapons accord is the most promising candidate for the Bush-Gorbachev summit.

Bush wants the Soviets to agree that the two sides should retain small stockpiles of chemical weapons until all 40 nations sign and implement a global ban.

The Soviets have resisted until now.

The Soviet argument is that waiting for all 40 nations to carry out the treaty before scrapping the last U.S. and Soviet chemical weapons would indefinitely postpone ridding the world of poison gas.

Some two dozen nations are believed either to possess or be capable of manufacturing poison gas.

Still, reports this week that Bush is willing to halt production of U.S. chemical weapons probably were made in the belief that enough is settled for Bush and Gorbachev to assure the people of the world that in one dangerous arena there may be cause for hope.

Weekly Political Pulse

Will the Arabs come to the rescue?

By Waleed Sadi

MAKE no mistake about it, the Israeli attack on His Majesty King Hussein's yacht on April 27 was deliberate. As a Royal Court spokesman confirmed, the April 27 incident was not the first to take place in the Aqaba Gulf against the royal yacht. And the fact that live ammunition was fired in the direction of the royal yacht with King Hussein visibly on deck makes the incident indeed "ominous" as the Royal Palace has characterised it.

There is more than a shred of evidence to substantiate the fears that the attack on the royal yacht was an act of piracy. Suffice to recall that the Israeli naval boat which perpetrated the attack on King Hussein was within a mile of the Jordanian shoreline as it pursued the royal yacht. At one stage of the shameful pursuit the Israeli naval boat was no further than few metres from the yacht and close enough to allow the Israeli crew to take pictures of the King. As can be seen, Israel stops at nothing to pursue its sinister goals and conspires in the Middle East and against Jordan in particular. The extent Israel has gone to undermine Jordan and its regime has indeed reached treacherous proportions as evidenced by the attack on the royal yacht.

Such aggressive acts against the Kingdom confirm also the suspicions that Jordan and King Hussein are viewed by Israel as principal obstacles in the path of its schemes and designs against the Arab Order. Perhaps such concrete evidences offered by Israel on its intentions against the country would propel the Arab World to take more concrete measures to boost Jordan's defences and well being. The moral of the story is: the more the Arab countries act indifferently to Jordan's pressing needs, the more Israel will view

Jordan as an easy prey. The minute the Arab World comes more convincingly and strongly in support of Jordan, the more cautious would Israel become towards it.

As long as the Arab Nation projects Jordan as an Arab state which can be left stranded with its economic and defence woes, Israel and its allies may take this as a clear signal that there is no limit to where they may go to pursue their designs against the kingdom. It has been said before, over and over again, that Jordan stands out as the first line of defence from Israel for the entire Arab "Order." If Jordan is weakened, so does this first line of defence. It is high time that the Arab countries take Jordan's needs seriously. There is still hope that the projected Arab summit would take these needs seriously and act accordingly.

The country's economic requirements stand out now as most pressing of all. Without economic strength, the stability and security of the Kingdom could be threatened. There are growing signs that with even modest Arab support, the vulnerability of the country to outside conspiracies would diminish considerably. An attack so naked as the one perpetrated by Israel on Jordan's head of state should at least awaken the conscious of the entire Arab Nation to the urgent need for inter-Arab solidarity. What is alarming in this context is the absence of even an Arab outcry in the wake of the Aqaba incident. Perhaps this muted Arab reaction to the Aqaba attack can still be rectified by the show of meaningful Arab support to Jordan when the Arab summit convenes soon. Otherwise, no one would take Arab rhetoric in support for Arab causes seriously.

Baltic republics appeal

(Continued from page 1)

in the United States and with top leaders in Canada, France, Britain and West Germany.

Although she was well-received, most Western governments have adopted a cautious attitude towards Lithuania, unwilling to grant formal recognition for fear of causing more trouble for Gorbachev as he wrestles with economic reform, ethnic strife, arms control and other issues.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater emphasised that Bush's May 3 meeting with Prunskiene did not change the U.S. policy of not formally recognising Lithuania as a separate country.

Prunskiene said Sunday she was heartened that Western leaders were pushing negotiations between Lithuania and the Kremlin. "The fact that they see us, Lithuania and the Soviet Union, as partners in negotiations is a sign that we're already seen as a state," she said.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand proposed in an April 26 letter that Lithuania temporarily suspend its independence and enter into talks with the Kremlin. Leaders in Moscow and Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, are interpreting the Kohl-Mitterrand letter differently, but appear to be edging towards a compromise along the lines it proposes.

LETTERS

Smokers and passive smokers

To the Editor,

I AM writing about the concern I feel for the people of Jordan and the increase of smokers here in this country. In May I issue of the Jordan Times there was a very sincere letter printed about the inhumanity shown towards animals in this country. I write about the inhumanity shown to the people of this country who do not smoke but are subjected to the smoke of others. Is it not less cruel to harm the health of those around you just because you have a habit you either do not want to quit, or find it too hard to do so?

Several years ago concerned doctors, scientists, environmentalists and educated men in the legislature started an anti-smoking campaign in America to make the public aware of the dangers smoking incurs. It is because of their concerted efforts that the people of the U.S. are finally waking up, throwing away their cigarettes, and quitting the habit. As a result, there has been a dramatic decrease in all kinds of cancer in the U.S. These above mentioned men have proven the dangers of smoking through years of research that proved that second-hand smoke is extremely harmful to the non-smoker. That left the tobacco companies worried, to say the least. They started a tough campaign to rescind all the previous grounds that had been gained by these concerned men. It was to no avail. The reason? Because people had finally wised up to what they were doing to their bodies as well as to the people around them by continuing with this dreadful habit. So, in a desperate attempt to keep the profits pouring in, the tobacco companies of America are now pushing (with tremendous success) their products onto the Middle East, Far East, Near East and European markets. As a result their sales have not suffered in the least and have in fact increased due to the fact that more and more of these people are starting the habit of smoking.

Your country is now trying to start an anti-smoking campaign here out of concern for the Jordanian people. My plea to you today is to please listen to what they are telling you. Do not ignore the lives of others around you who have to breathe the air you are polluting. Think of this as a contribution you can make to "Earth Day" as well as to yourselves and to your families and loved ones. Most of all, do not let the conglomerates of foreign countries use you in this way. Do not let them take advantage of your unawareness on the subject. They love it and are laughing all the way to the bank every time you lay down your hard earned money on the grocer's counter for a pack of cigarettes. I say all of this out of the love I have come to feel for the people of Jordan and for this beautiful country. I also say all this out of experience. I smoked for 12 years, two packs a day, loved it, and didn't quit until I learned I was to have a baby. That was 7 years ago and I do not regret one second since I have stopped. I have lost two family members to cancer, cigarette related, and it hurts to think it could have been prevented. If even one person stops smoking because of this plea which I have made, I will thank God (who by the way states that our bodies are a temple and should be treated with the utmost respect) that it has served its purpose even to a small degree. Even one life would be worth it all. Thank you all for listening and God bless you all.

Reatha Nasrawi
Amman.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature: *Al Dastour*

'Arab solidarity and united political action the only answer to dangers'

By Narmeen Murad

THE MASSIVE Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories poses a multi-fold threat to the Arab World, and the only Arab answer to the danger is through solidarity and "united political action."

This was the summary of a working paper presented by Lower House of Parliament member Taher Al Masri at a conference of Arab professional associations which opened here Saturday. The working paper offered a detailed review of not only the demographic threats posed to the Palestinians and Arabs by the Soviet influx to Israel and the occupied Arab territories but also the "inevitability of the implementation" of the Zionist plan for a "greater Israel."

Noting that over 65,000 Soviet Jews would have left their native land to Israel by the end of May, raising to 150,000 the total number of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel during the year 1990, Masri, a former foreign minister, warned that if the massive number highlights the demographic threat to the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the scientific qualifications of the immigrants pose a danger of a larger magnitude to the Arab Nation.

"Information indicates that 35 to 40 per cent of these immigrants possess high scientific qualifications which could be of great benefit to Israel's technology," said the parliamentarian. Such added knowledge, he said, will "bring about

new horizons, a clearer supremacy and encouragement to Israeli expansionism at the expense of the whole Arab Nation."

Masri predicted that Israel would thus be further encouraged to pursue its plans and "force the same number (as the Jewish immigrants), half a million Palestinians, to leave occupied Palestine to Jordan."

"This would also mean that Arab national security is more threatened than ever," he added.

"Egypt, Sudan, Syria and Iraq depend greatly on the Nile and Euphrates as a source of life; it is not a coincidence that we hear of all these dams being constructed in Turkey and Ethiopia"

Masri quoted remarks made by Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in an interview with the Hebrew daily Yediot Ahranot that in order to accommodate the large number of Soviet Jewish immigrants Israel would "need a large plot of land to allow each immigrant the freedom to settle wherever he wants on this land."

Shamir also said that "the Arabs cannot stop this natural flow of Jewish people to their land and this, at the end, is the crux of the conflict," Masri noted.

These statements, according to Masri, clearly reflect the Zionist movement's past, present and future policy that "immigration and settlement are the core of Zionism."

"Just as it planned and occupied Palestine, the Zionist

movement also plans to occupy Jordan tomorrow and other Arab countries the day after, whether in the form of physical occupation or through clear control," Masri said.

The former minister also warned of the growing threat of Israel pursuing its theory of "the alternative Palestinian homeland in Jordan" since it has become the almost public policy of the right-wing Likud bloc headed by Shamir.

"It is precisely out of this thinking that Shamir made

sistently."

"The indications show that Israeli-Ethiopian cooperation is heading in this direction," he said.

Masri also pointed to the fact that despite the August 1988 ceasefire, "the Iran-Iraq front is still, although stable at this time, a pithead which can start burning at any time."

He also warned that all these factors come together at a time when strategic studies of the region indicate that "Arab oil will return to the frontline of world economy in the mid-1990s."

"We have to understand that current affairs in our region are only parts of greater strategic plans aimed at limiting the power of the Arab Nation and keeping it busy with internal conflicts," Masri said.

These strategic plans, according to Masri, target the economy of the Arab World and its unity "to hinder it from becoming a very effective power on the international arena, especially at this age of political and economic groupings."

He blamed Arab countries for their "short-sighted political decisions," and said that Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine had highlighted the Arab leaders' inability to "fulfill the hopes of the nation and its aspirations to confront the dangers surrounding it and its future."

"Official and public reactions to the threat of Jewish immigration highlight the difference between the leaders and their people," Masri said.

He accused the official Arab reaction "being 'shy and de-



Taher Al Masri

layed," saying that the Arabs "have no political or economic or any type of weight except perhaps in the field of consumer marketing."

He concluded that the absence of Arab unity was the main cause of what he described as the three Arab catastrophes: in 1948, 1967 and 1989.

Masri said there was one positive element in the region at this time: The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. "It is the only lit torch in the Arab darkness and the practical and realistic indication that the Palestinian people will not die," he said.

But he lamented that the uprising was not receiving the support it deserves from the Arab Nation. "This infatuation, which is asking very little from its brothers, suffers from the injustice of its brothers," he said.

"It does not receive the financial and political support needed, and its mention has become a normal affair in Arab politics."

He pointed out that Jordan, "the twin of Palestine and the first defence line, also suffers from its brothers and friends."

Awareness is growing in the West of realities of Jewish immigration

By Lamis K. Andoni

This is the first part of a three-part analytical report on a symposium held in Amman last week on "U.S. policy in the Middle East."

ALTHOUGH one of the main factors shaping the Western attitude towards Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel remains "commitment to Jewish human rights," there is an increasing awareness of the grave repercussions of the massive immigrant influx on the Middle East peace process and Palestinian national rights.

This rather slow albeit important shift was reflected in discussions held here last week among Arab intellectuals and politicians and a group of prominent Middle East experts from the University of Harvard. It was particularly expressed in the concluding assessments of the participants in the symposium, held under the title "American policy in the Middle East" and organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) between May 5-7. In the final session, the participants drew the attention of world governments to the dangers posed to the peace process by Soviet Jewish immigration and blamed some Western countries for not absorbing enough number of Soviet immigrants and thus forcing them to opt for Israel.

Judging by the two-day discussions and most of the working papers submitted, the apparent gradual shift could be attributed to a number of factors: — Moscow's endorsement of a liberal and open policy regarding emigration of its citizens, particularly Jews, has ironically diminished the importance of the issue as strictly a case of human rights. After all, as some participants argued, the doors are now wide open for Jews as well as others to leave the Soviet Union.

— Israeli statements emphasising the need for new immigrants to fulfil the dream of "greater Israel" as well as the practices of the occupation authorities — particularly the recent takeover by government-

backed settlers of a church-owned hostel in the Christian quarter of Arab Jerusalem — is drawing growing attention to the aims of settling Soviet Jews in Israel.

— In some ways — despite its grave consequences — the issue of Soviet immigrants seems to be refocusing the attention on the Palestinian people's right to return and self-determination.

— The U.S. curb on the number of Soviet emigrants it is ready to absorb is raising doubts among some Western and American academic intellectuals about American concern over "the plight of the Soviet Jews" and the Middle East peace process.

Presumably a paper on the impact of the end of the cold war on the Middle East, Dr. Everett Mendelson from Harvard bluntly declared that the U.S. had demonstrated "a moral failure on the issue." It provoked U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth to counter that there was no deliberate American policy to limit the number of Soviet Jewish immigrants to the U.S.

In the final analysis, the points mentioned above could provide a basis for Arab action on the international level to counter Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Nevertheless, the discussions at the ATF also indicated that there are important points of disagreement between the Arab perspective and the American approach even among those who basically oppose the encroachment on Palestinian national rights and adverse impacts on the peace process.

The issue is still dealt with, to varying degrees, as a basic human right case and priority is almost always given to Jews' right to leave the Soviet Union. This was particularly evident when, in the process of drafting the conclusions of the Amman symposium, several American academicians almost automatically stated support for Soviet Jews' right to emigrate as the number one item. The initial draft drew expressions of strong resentment from Arab participants who argued that the issue at stake was not the right of the

Jews to leave the Soviet Union but the practical impacts of their influx to Israel on the peace process and Palestinian rights.

Moreover, while most American academics who condemn the exclusion of Palestinian rights try to draw a symmetrical relationship between Soviet Jewish immigrants' rights and Palestinian rights, Arabs resent such an argument. In a brief intervention during the final session, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan argued that there could not be symmetry between the right of Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union and the Palestinian people's national right to self-determination and to return to their usurped homeland. For many Arab participants, drawing such a symmetrical relationship would subordinate the right of Jews, regardless of their country of origin, to settle in Israel or the occupied Arab territories at the expense of the indigenous Arab population.

Another significant difference is that while Arabs view the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israel "proper" as a prelude to a mass evulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, Western academics are very careful to make a clear distinction between settling the immigrants in Israel and moving them to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This Western attitude — apparently for fear of being accused of opposing "Jewish human rights" — has so far prompted the Arabs, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to avoid direct and explicit opposition to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel "proper."

But in the symposium the issue was tackled in a more candid manner. Arab participants, particularly His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, strongly argued that Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel fits into Israel's systematic policy of annexing the occupied territories and creating new facts on the ground that would obstruct the peace process.

'No shift in Soviet stand'

(Continued from page 1)

Jews to Israel, Andropov said the right of emigrants to retain their Soviet passports was not part of existing laws. "We are now working towards the amendment of the regulations to allow emigrants to retain their passports," the Soviet official said.

Andropov vehemently rejected suggestions that the new Soviet policies towards Jewish emigration had grave repercussions for the Palestinian people.

"We simply cannot prevent citizens from leaving the country," he argued. "But you cannot say that we are causing damage to the Palestinians; after all, we cannot influence nor regulate the immigration of Soviet Jews," he said.

"How can we influence the American Congress or make it increase the number of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and said that Soviet authorities as a policy, explain to Jewish emigrants the legal status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the pertaining international laws."

"We are doing all of that; but tell us how can we stop the process of Israeli settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied lands," he said.

The official dismissed suggestions by some Western analysts and academics that perestroika has given rise to a new wave of Soviet anti-Semitism. "There is no threat to the American role or 'influence, which cannot be diminished or underestimated either in Europe or the Middle East at this stage of our history," he said.

But he went on to say that the future role of Europe would be determined to a large extent by the idea of the reunification of the two Germanys and what he described as "putting the European house in order." He called for new structures and order in Europe and expressed a belief in "a common European house" involving all countries and systems in Europe.

Andropov left Jordan for Syria as part of a tour in preparation for a Mediterranean security conference scheduled to be held in Spain next September. The conference will be attended by 35 countries and will discuss issues of arms control as well as ecological problems.

modifications in the forms and means of support for the Palestinian movement, but this change will not influence the political support for the organisation.

Asked whether he thought the shift to the right in Eastern Europe would have a tremendous influence on the Soviet political process, Andropov reviewed the differences between the two situations.

"I do not think that a similar process can be repeated in the Soviet Union... it is not possible to make parallelism between the two situations," he argued, but conceded that his country was facing "a very complicated situation."

Andropov, son of the late President Yuri Andropov, dismissed reports that President Mikhail Gorbachev was in real danger and that the Communist Party was in jeopardy as a result of the sweeping changes in his country and in Eastern Europe. "There is no doubt that the train (of change) is moving with a great speed that is continuously accelerating, but it does not mean that the Communist Party is about to collapse," he said.

Asked whether he believed that the current changes in Europe would increase European influence in the Middle East at the expense of the Americans, Andropov, an expert on European affairs, ruled out possibility for an immediate decline of the U.S. role. "There is no threat to the American role or 'influence, which cannot be diminished or underestimated either in Europe or the Middle East at this stage of our history," he said.

But he went on to say that the future role of Europe would be determined to a large extent by the idea of the reunification of the two Germanys and what he described as "putting the European house in order." He called for new structures and order in Europe and expressed a belief in "a common European house" involving all countries and systems in Europe.

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Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

scheme with Israel. But it did not say specifically whether Arab Jerusalem residents could participate in elections or be on the negotiating team.

U.S. proposals tried to exploit this vagueness to meet Palestinian demands that Jerusalem be subject to negotiation and that Arab Jerusalem Palestinians be allowed to participate in the elections and in a 10-member Palestinian delegation to preliminary talks with Israel.

Another policy plank in a Likud-led government would "stress that Israel will not speak to the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," said the official.

Moshe Zeev Feldman, a lawmaker of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party, said that Daniel Kurzer, a top adviser to Baker, left open the possibility that U.S. proposals could be revised.

All set for 'right of return' march

(Continued from page 1)

announcing Soviet Jewish immigration, an advertisement by Zarga Deputy Bassam Haddadin said Sunday.

However, until late Sunday, it was evident that certain political groups would not officially participate in the march nor would they express public support for it.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has expressed its support for the march "to Palestine" but a representative who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity maintained that the PLO's backing "will remain detached."

"Some Palestinian personalities might participate in the march but not as an expression of official support for it," the PLO representative said.

The Muslim Brotherhood held a press conference Sunday in which it announced that while it was not participating in the march it was "not calling on our supporters to boycott it," (see story on page 3).

The main problem against the participation of certain political trends is seen by observers as an "indication of these political parties' rejection of the peaceful features of the march."

One political analyst pointed out that while the "right of return" is an objective for all Palestinians regardless of ideology or affiliation, "accepting the existence of an Israeli state is not."

Although the PLO has publicly recognised Israel's right to exist, its reluctance to publicly support the march "is an attempt at making amends with the view of the Islamists within its body," one observer said.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) as well as most Arab nationalists and Baathists are expected to take part in the march "in

full force," sources said. Youth organisations and women's federations and associations have also called on their members to participate and provided transportation to the valley.

Jordan Valley municipalities and farmer's unions called on Ghor residents to welcome the participants in the march and proceed with them to the bridge.

Yesterday's final session of the professional unions representatives' meeting preceded the march three working papers were discussed. They dealt with the threats of Soviet Jewish immigration, Palestinian human rights and practical ways to support the Palestinian uprising.

In the morning session of Sunday's meetings Dr. Muhammad Faq, secretary general of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights, delivered a working paper on "human rights and the right of return for the Palestinian people."

Faq detailed legal documents and international resolutions supporting the Palestinians' "right of return" and blamed the delay in its implementation to "lack of Arab power to execute these decisions."

"This is our right. International law backs us. But we lack the strength to support the implementation of these rights," Faq said.

He linked the Palestinians' right of return to Soviet Jewish immigration into the occupied territories. "There is no way to summarise facts and bring them closer to the truth than connecting Soviet immigration into Palestine and the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland," he said.

"We have to support the struggle for our just cause which the whole world has accepted as our given right for half a century now... we have no right to sit back and not pressure for it," Faq concluded.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Muhammad Al Rumayhi, editor in chief of Kuwait's Al Arabi magazine, delivered a short working paper entitled "an attempt to crystallise practical proposals to support the intifada."

Rumayhi brought together several ideas aimed at protecting the steadfastness of the intifada by highlighting the loopholes in Arab support for the revolt.

His main and most profound complaint stemmed from his feeling that "some governments stand today short of fulfilling their financial obligations" to the intifada.

Rumayhi called on Arab governments to adopt the example of the Palestinian people's struggle inside the occupied territories. "The intifada is not the property of one political ideology over another or one party over another. It is the property of all the Palestinian people regardless of their different beliefs, ideologies or social strata... it is a white page in the Arab history and it remains our duty to maintain it."

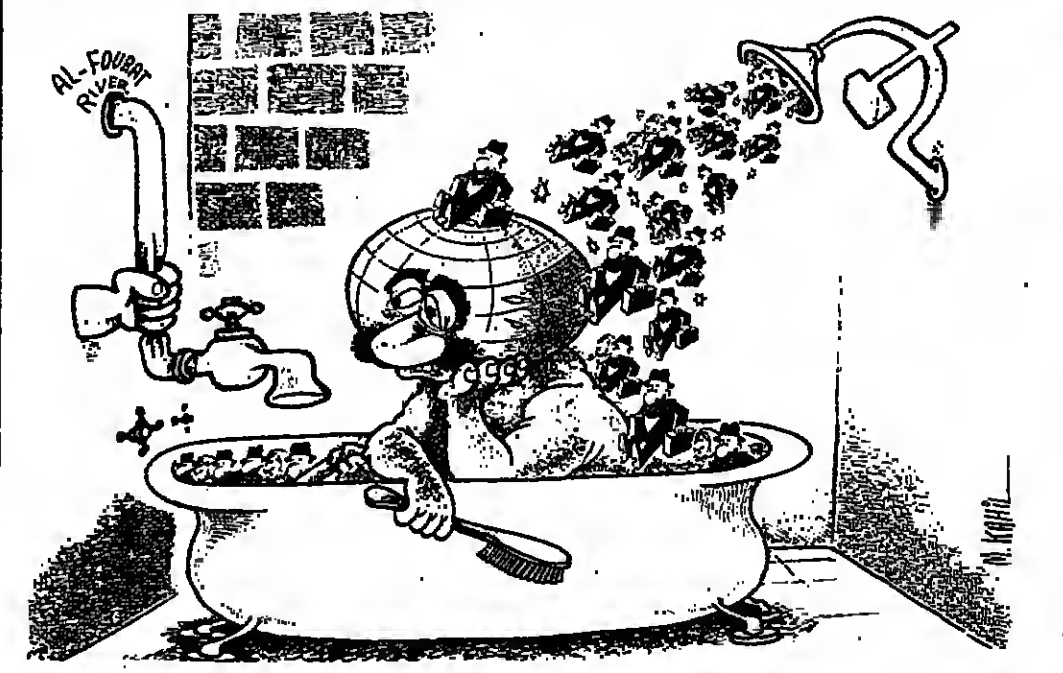
"Regardless of their political affiliations, the Palestinians are maintaining the maximum level of unity," Rumayhi pointed out.

He called for the establishment of a "medical project" in Jordan to treat Palestinians injured in the uprising.

"The enemy has tried to utilise the open bridges policy to its favour, and this is our opportunity to do the same," he said.

Rumayhi called for a change in the political and media policies of the different Arab governments with a view to "leaving behind the rhetoric and concentrating on restructuring our style in presenting our problems to the world."

"International opinion understands facts and accepts them but not rhetoric and poetry," he said.



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Jordan Times

Iraq to raise oil price issue at Arab summit

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq and other Arab oil exporters, hailing from low prices, may tackle Gulf producers over output levels at this month's Arab summit, regional oil officials said Sunday.

"I do not have the slightest doubt that the issue will be discussed somehow, somewhere during the summit," a senior Gulf oil official told Reuters by telephone.

If prices fall further between now and May 28 Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are sure to face pressure to cut output, said the official, who regularly attends meetings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Arab summit in Baghdad has been called mainly to focus anger over the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine.

But officials said that on the sidelines of the summit Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, supported by fellow OPEC members Algeria, Libya and non-OPEC Egypt, and Oman, was likely to ask Gulf Arab oil producers to limit output in an effort to raise prices.

At a meeting of the 13 OPEC oil ministers in Geneva on May 3, Iraq tried but failed to obtain strong commitments from Kuwait and the UAE to return to their output quotas.

Instead, the group opted for voluntary cuts intended to raise prices to OPEC's minimum reference price of \$18 a barrel. If implemented, the cuts would take away about six per cent of OPEC's total production of around 23.5 million.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has already signalled it wants higher prices, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer

told Reuters May 4 that the kingdom would not produce "a single barrel" above its OPEC share of 5.38 million.

UAE and Kuwait, with reserves that could last more than 130 years at present production levels, want OPEC's reference price of \$18 a barrel to stay unchanged until at least 1991 to encourage recent growth in demand.

Gulf based oil industry executives say Kuwait will only cut half the 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) promised at the OPEC meeting, remaining above its OPEC quota of 1.5 million.

The UAE has said it would reduce production by 200,000 bpd, but surprised OPEC delegates when it announced that the cut would be made from an output level of 2.1 million instead of the widely-expected level of two million.

"If the market does not respond because some of the members are not that serious in their commitments, then the issue will most probably be raised by the Iraqis," said the official who declined to be named.

"The Iraqis feel that OPEC decisions have not been definitive," he said.

He said President Hussein could rely on support from Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Oman.

"You have to look at the countries who are hurt most," the official said.

Better prices are vital for countries like Egypt, Algeria and Iraq to help them settle foreign debts. Unlike rich Gulf Arab producers, they do not have spare capacity to increase output and benefit from the recent surge in world demand.

At present, OPEC's "basket"

of light crudes is around \$2 below the reference price of \$18 a barrel.

For the Arab countries, who own over 70 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, this means a loss of around 32 million dollars a day.

Riyadh in compliance

Saudi Arabia has complied with the recent OPEC agreement to cut oil production, Nazer said. Speaking to journalists in Riyadh on his return from a visit to the United States, Nazer said the kingdom "has executed all that it pledged" at the OPEC meeting.

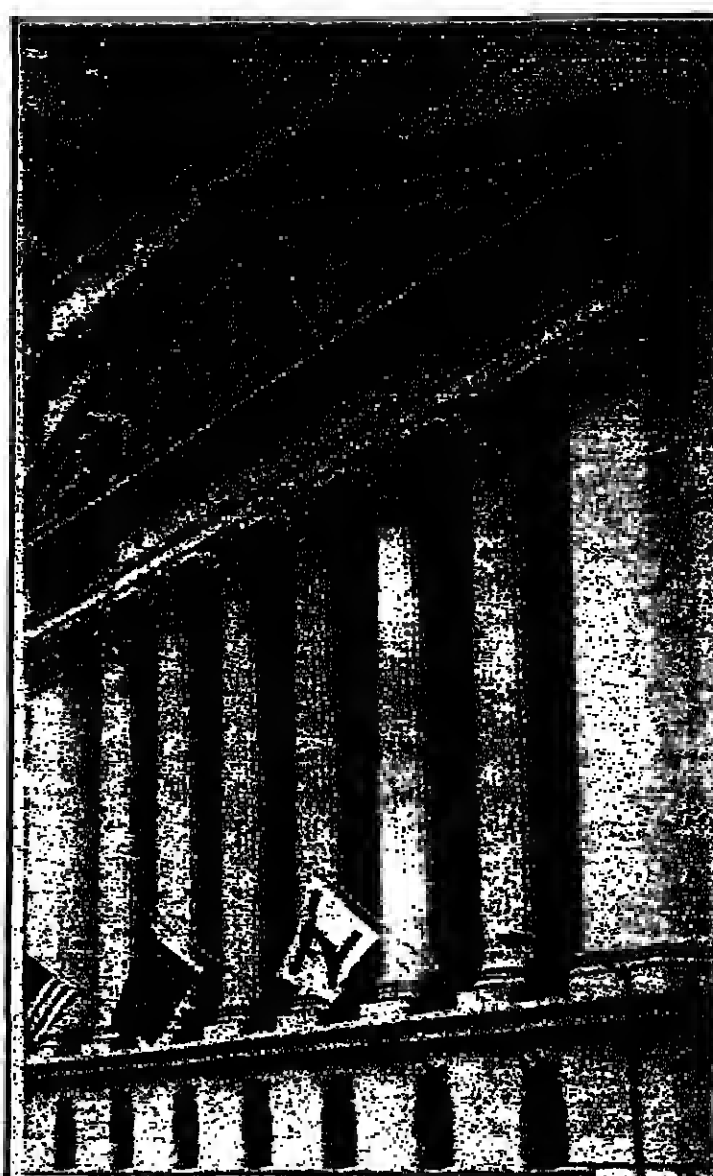
Nazer said the accord was a good one, and prices have now begun to rise gradually.

He said the summer period was traditionally difficult one for crude oil marketing.

Nazer visited the United States last week to review the operations of Star Enterprise, the kingdom's U.S. refining and marketing joint venture with Texaco Incorporated.

Later Sunday, Nazer held a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Issam Al Chalabi during which the two ministers discussed the situation in the oil markets following the Geneva accord. Chalabi was in Riyadh for the fifth meeting of the Iraqi-Saudi joint commission which co-chairs with Saudi Commerce Minister Suleiman Al Solaimi.

After the meeting with Nazer, Chalabi said he was optimistic that all OPEC states will adhere to the pact. He said Saudi Arabia and Iraq were committed to carrying out the Geneva decisions "until we witness an improvement in oil prices."



Traders at Wall Street, the world's biggest financial centre, are relieved after economic reports indicated that the U.S. economy is experiencing steady but slow growth without high inflation (file photo)

Wall Street takes it easy

NEW YORK (AP) — In the long-running debate over whether the American economy is growing too fast or too slowly, Wall Street has begun to entertain the possibility that neither side is right.

A surprising run of statistical reports in recent days has prompted some analysts to toy with the idea that conditions are close to a happy medium — favouring continued slow but steady growth without any drastic change in inflation.

Few people in the forecasting business are content simply to proclaim "clear skies ahead" and flip the switches off on their computer-powered crystal balls. As practitioners of the dismal science, they are paid to worry continuously about whatever might go wrong.

Still, just a few hints that the economy might be maintaining a healthy, sustainable momentum have been enough to lift the stock market to near-record levels of late.

For the moment, neither the inflation nor the recession worries that have beset the financial world in recent months appear to have come to fruition.

"Some economists are convinced that the economy could fall into a recession because there is a credit crunch in the financial markets," said Edward Yardeni at Prudential-Bache Securities. "We've argued that this is just another scare which will soon blow away."

Optimism vs. pessimism

"So far the optimistic approach seems to be outperforming the pessimistic approach to investing, although we admit that the first four months of the year were not kind to bond investors."

"We believe the inflation scare which unnerved the bond market is just about over, and the credit crunch scare may soon be over as well."

The mood in the markets be-

gan to brighten early this month, with interest rates having hit their highest levels in a year.

The labour department's report on April employment, showing much slower than expected growth in jobs, seemed to signal that the pace of business wasn't strong enough to support the kind of inflationary expectations that had been building.

That positive view took on some fresh urgency Friday, when word came of a 0.3 per cent drop in the producer price index of finished goods and a 0.6 per cent decline in retail sales last month.

That helped the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials post a 91.22-point gain for the past week to 2,801.58, not far short of the record closing high of 2,810.15 reached Jan. 2.

Other readings for the week showed the New York Stock Exchange composite index up 6.83 at 192.24, the NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market up 9.49 at 438.10, and the American Stock Exchange market value index up 6.77 at 352.50.

Volume on the big board averaged 164.34 million shares a day, up from 139.90 million the week before.

The revival of optimism in the stock market by no means reflects a unanimously rosy view of the outlook.

Indeed, some economists on the street lately have lowered their estimates of growth for the spring and summer months, at the same time that others are raising their projections.

Inflation fears die hard, especially in the bond market. Furthermore, analysts remain mindful of how frequently and rapidly sentiment has shifted among investors recently.

"The economy and inflation have given false signals in the past," says the value line investment survey in its current appraisal of business prospects. "Volatility is likely to remain the order of the day."

German monetary union draft omits key issues

BONN (R) — Experts from East and West Germany omitted some key issues when they agreed a draft treaty on monetary union, Bonn government sources said Sunday.

The treaty, which will form the basis for merging the two German economies in July, leaves out details on protecting East German property from Western speculators and on helping East German enterprises and farms to adapt to a free-market economy, the sources said.

These important issues will instead be contained in a supplement to the treaty, they said.

The experts who prepared the treaty agreed that Western investors could purchase property in East Germany if they set up businesses and created jobs there.

The draft treaty was finally concluded just before midnight Saturday after a marathon 30-hour session. This meant that Bonn and East Berlin were still on course to introduce the powerful West German mark into East Germany July 2.

A Bonn government spokesman said the draft would be handed to the two governments for negotiation and approval this week.

The parties in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling centre-right coalition are due to debate it Tuesday. Kohl will brief prime ministers of West Germany's states Wednesday and the cabinet hopes to approve the treaty Friday.

The West German parliament should give its stamp of approval to the treaty in late June.

Kohl warned East Germany last week that the introduction of the West German mark was linked to sweeping economic reforms, such as property rights for non-East Germans.

The final ministers of the two Germanys will meet Monday to begin formal talks on the treaty's economic consequences. Kohl is also expected to meet East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere informally.

The Bonn sources said the main test was whether East Germany's ruling coalition would ratify the draft and its supplements. The Social Democrats, junior coalition partners, have demanded more protection for the poor and elderly.

East Germans on fixed incomes such as pensioners and the poor are expected to suffer most when price subsidies are scrapped and prices rocket.

But the experts agreed that no pensioners should be worse off after monetary union, with the state footing the bill.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, May 13, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	666.0	670.0
Pound Sterling	1118.0	1124.7
Deutsche mark	406.8	409.2
Swiss franc	475.9	478.8
French franc	120.4	121.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	435.6	438.2
Dutch guilder	361.7	363.9
Swedish crown	111.0	111.7
Italian lira (for 100)	55.1	55.4
Belgian franc (for 100)	197.0	198.2

Eyes focus on Bush ahead of tax summit

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans in the U.S. Congress, thrown off guard by President George Bush's decision to call budget deficit talks which may open the door to higher taxes, are loudly reminding him of his campaign promises.

Some of the most strident voices belong to conservatives intent on keeping alive Bush's 1988 campaign pledge that Democrats should read his lips when he said: "No new taxes."

Republican Senator William Roth told anti-tax legislators and anti-tax groups: "I have a message for the president. Read my lips: Keep the campaign pledge."

Democrat congressmen are equally concerned about the meeting Tuesday between the Republican president and legislators.

They say that if new taxes are imposed to try to reduce the

budget deficit, they may have to take the blame in November's congressional elections.

Most analysts believe higher taxes are needed if the administration is to make a serious attempt to lower a federal budget deficit which is expected to top \$100 billion for the fiscal year starting October 1.

Some analysts say the deficit has driven up U.S. interest rates and acted as a drag on the economy. It has also turned the United States into the world's largest debtor.

Bush's chief of staff, John Sununu, has said that Democrats may offer new taxes but the president will veto them.

His remarks angered Democrats, already convinced that the Republicans will blame them in the November elections for any tax increases.

While Republicans worry that Tuesday's negotiations will increase taxes, Democratic Senator



George Bush

Ernest Hollings, architect of the deficit-capping Gramm-Rudman-Hollings act, fears that the result will be to prevent taxes rising high enough.

Hollings wrote in the New York Times on May 6: "If past experience is any guide, the objective of this 'summit'... will be to concoct the right mix of lizard's tail and newt's eye to put the American people to sleep until after the election."

Brazil's businessmen beat freeze on financial assets

By Stephen Powell
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — The ingenuity of Brazilian businessmen has pumped billions of dollars back into an already overheated economy despite a draconian government freeze on financial assets.

Faced by an annual inflation rate of nearly 5,000 per cent, newly-elected President Fernando Collor de Mello on March 16 froze most of the money in private bank accounts for an average of two years.

The move on Collor's second day in office stunned Brazil. Economists described it as one of the

most severe economic reforms in world history.

Central Bank President Ibrahim Eris said the equivalent of \$85 billion, or more than two-thirds of the money in bank accounts, had been frozen.

Companies had big difficulties covering their payroll costs and some people predicted there would be a severe depression.

A few weeks later, the talk is different. Economists and financial analysts say companies, possibly through fraud, have unblocked a considerable amount of money. Fears of a depression have receded but inflation has not been checked.

Three major anti-inflation

plans under Collor's predecessor, Jose Sarney, failed to control prices and analysts said it was still an open question whether Collor would be more successful.

Economist Eduardo Gianetti da Fonseca of the University of Sao Paulo, who has studied companies' attempts to get at their frozen funds, said between \$10 and \$40 billion had been released in a bewildering number of ways, both legal and illegal.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello told the business newspaper Gazeta Mercantil that liquidity had increased from 9.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 14.1 per cent of GDP April 30. She put GDP at \$350 billion.

Corporations ignore oppression in battle for Burma

By David Brunnstrom
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Governments worldwide condemned Burma's military rulers for killing thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1988, but international corporations are vying to exploit the country's resources.

While government cut off aid to protest the killings, major U.S., Australian, British, and Japanese companies have secured agreements to extract oil in Burma.

Thailand, which made no protest, is exploiting its neighbour's rich teakwood and fish reserves.

After more than a quarter century of socialist isolationism, Burma is finally inviting

foreign companies to trade. Last year foreign investment brought at least a billion dollars into the impoverished state, according to Rangoon-based diplomats.

Business executives argue that investing in Burma will speed development and encourage political liberalisation.

But Burmese dissidents and others have condemned dealings with a government that bayoneted and shot thousands to crush dissent, and is accused by Amnesty International and other human rights groups of continuing to arbitrarily arrest and torture opponents.

Dissidents say investment will only help entrench the junta. The sale of oil, logging and fishing concessions also threatens to denude the country's natural resources, and

much of the income is squandered in Rangoon's war against ethnic rebel groups, they say.

"This is not for the benefit of the people of Burma, only the military government," said Moe Thi Zan, head of the exiled anti-government All Burma Students' Democratic Front.

The junta has promised to hold a national election May 27, but the prospect for substantive political change looks dim, given that major political opponents have been arrested and cannot run for office.

Orchestrated election

Many diplomats predict an army-orchestrated election that will fail to soothe an embittered populace.

Some diplomats believe the election is aimed less at satisfying popular demands for political change than at persuading aggressive trading nations like Japan to restart major aid projects and promote further investment.

"If Japan gives approval to the vote, then the government will have achieved what it set out to," a diplomat said.

But Japan expressed its displeasure after the junta banned opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from the polls, and has indicated that it expects to see real political changes.

Before she was put under house arrest in July, Suu Kyi said investment in the existing government could work against democracy.

"It would be so much better if people could put human rights issues above economic issues,

especially in a country like Burma where the human rights issue is so pressing," she said.

But for business, profits come first, and some executives contend that their involvement will at least help the Burmese people by promoting a healthy economy.

Since last year, the U.S. oil companies Amoco and Unocal; Croft and Kirkland from Britain; Broken Hill Petroleum of Australia; Petro-Canada; the joint British and Dutch giant Shell; and South Korea's Yukong all have secured agreements to operate onshore in Burma. Idemitsu of Japan and Britain's Premier Petroleum have agreed to explore offshore.

Pepsi Cola, the U.S. soft-drinking giant, is building a factory just outside Rangoon. Last year, Coca Cola signed a production agreement.

Other companies, including Daewoo of South Korea, have signed joint venture agreements and a string of obscure Thai concerns have bought up vast and lucrative timber and fishing concessions.

Last month the U.S. senate unanimously approved a bill by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan banning all imports from Burma. Critics say such moves are hypocritical while U.S. companies are not barred from operating in the country.

But diplomats say governments cannot keep companies out of Burma without approving draconian sanctions like those against apartheid in South Africa.

"Obviously we like to stay out of politics," said Pepsi's Barry Shea, noting his company had beaten rival Coca Cola into Burma.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your charm, energy and a considerable amount of magnetism can help you turn unexpected problems into advantages today. Keep a highly objective point of view and enjoy the good aspects.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day and evening when your usual activities are of first importance and by doing them with your most skill you can make extraordinary progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An excellent time for planning every aspect of whatever amusement you like the most and get congenial companions to consent to go with you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your judgment is fine how you can increase the accord between you and family members but for best results don't hesitate but make changes at once.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't be emotional but in any communications or calls make a point to be very cool and practical and you get a reputation for common sense.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are a generous spender and in all money matters but this is the day when you see ways to build up your resources so you will have more assets.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have very productive spe-

cific ideas now by which you can bring to yourself more of the personal benefits which mean the most to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a backlog of duties to get caught up on and this is an excellent time to do so as well as blueprinting your future wishes carefully.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Some friend who is very particular in doing everything to perfection can understand your needs and greatly assist you in attaining them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Outside activities of all kinds and the best media by which you can utilize your abilities to fullest advantage both today and tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Be remembered to all kinds of advanced and new interests now awaiting to come into your life and they could be developed to your benefit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An excellent day and evening for you to analyze and size up both what your greatest potential in assets is as well as your obligations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have the chance to have extended conversations with various partners and associates and to arrive at a new meeting of minds with them.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Thin people do not use gravy as a beverage!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MORRA
CNOTH
LOWALT
DEEMLY

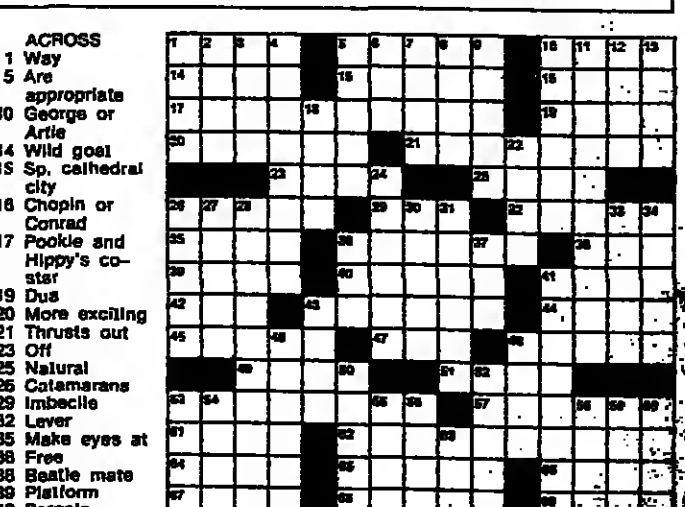
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HEAVY YOUTH TUSSE DISOWN
Answer: His aptitude for platitudes creates this in his audience—LASSITUDE

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. GEMMA
2. BERRY
3. HILL
4. HILL
5. HILL
6. HILL
7. HILL
8. HILL
9. HILL
10. HILL
11. HILL
12. HILL
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33. HILL
34. HILL
35. HILL
36. HILL
37. HILL
38. HILL
39. HILL
40. HILL
41. HILL

42. No-one
43. Daytime TV
44. Defrost
45. Bridge
46. Withheld
47. Showbusiness
48. Exam letters
49. Homestead

Coup foiled in Madagascar

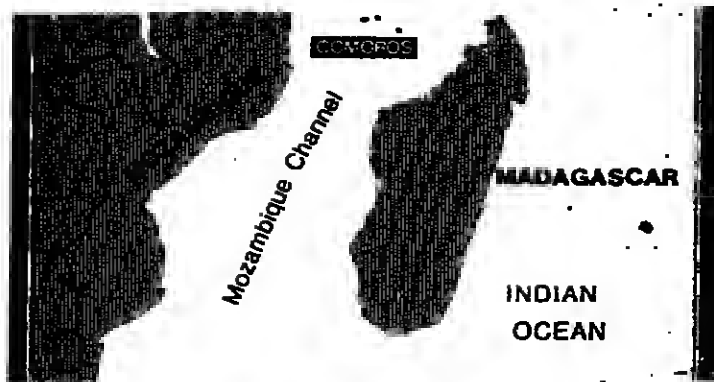
ANTANANARIVO (R) — Rebels seized the state radio station on the Indian Ocean Republic of Madagascar early Sunday, but the government quickly regained control after the coup attempt failed to secure mass support.

After several hours of confusion, the government said it was in control. Residents in the capital, Antananarivo, said police were firing tear gas at small groups of stone-throwing demonstrators supporting the rebels. A rebel group took over Radio Madagascar, the island's only radio station, shortly after dawn and announced the setting up of a "republican government of public safety."

"The Democratic Republic of Madagascar is replaced by the Republic of Madagascar," the rebel statement said.

Four hours later, the radio broadcast a communique from Prime Minister Victor Ramahatry saying: "All institutions of the state are in place."

He gave no further details and



take to the streets. They chanted anti-government slogans and threw stones at the police who responded with tear gas.

It was not clear if General Jean Ratsiraka, the man named in the rebel announcement as the new head of state, was personally involved in the coup attempt.

It appeared to be a carbon copy of a "radio coup" last July when six men seized the station and announced an end to Ratsiraka's

rule. Madagascar, a former French colony, has started a programme of political liberalisation to complement economic reforms launched five years ago.

Political parties not linked to the ruling coalition were legalised in March.

About a dozen parties covering the entire political spectrum have since sprung up and diplomats say the present climate on the island would not favour a coup.

Aquino wants to keep friendly ties with U.S.

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Sunday, the eve of talks on the future of U.S. military bases whose lease runs out next year, that the Philippines wanted to preserve friendly relations with the United States.

But Aquino, speaking on national television, gave no hint whether he would agree to renew the lease on the bases, which Washington considers vital to the defence of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Actual threats and protest rallies showing that national feelings against the bases is rising, police put more than 1,000 men on alert for a 24-hour security for the talks.

"We are entering into these talks prepared to maintain our friendly relations with the United States, keeping in mind that any friendship must be based on respect for each other's rights and adherence to principles," Aquino said.

The exploratory talks will determine whether the two countries will go on to negotiate a treaty allowing the United States to go on using Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations in the Philippines.

Pope calls on Mexico to legally recognise church

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has completed a trip to Mexico during which he called for legal recognition of the church.

Pope John Paul declared Saturday that the Mexican government should not consider the Roman Catholic Church a constitutional enemy, but rather an ally in the fight for a more moral society.

"In a state of law, the full and effective recognition of religious freedom should be the fruit and guarantee of civil liberties," Pope John Paul told Mexico's bishops in his strongest call yet for legal recognition of the church.

Despite being overwhelmingly Catholic, Mexico has harsh restrictions on church activity, including bans on church property and participation in education and political life, that date back to 1859.

The church was for many years considered a reactionary force by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, but in recent years the restrictions have been loosely enforced.

E. German Stalinists beheaded political prisoners in 1950s

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's former Stalinist regime secretly guillotined 62 political prisoners and burned their bodies in the 1950s, according to the state crematorium director in Dresden.

"The time has come when I simply can no longer cover up," Dietmar Hildebrand told the East German News Agency.

He said he was speaking out because East Germany's new democracy had encouraged people to renew inquiries into the fate of relatives who were arrested and vanished in the early postwar era.

Quoting death certificates, trial records and statements by witnesses, Hildebrand said 62 people were beheaded between July 1952 and January 1960 in the former execution chamber in Dresden of the Nazi-era People's Court.

Victims were strapped to a plank without blindfolds in the

Bush signs human rights proclamation on China

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has signed a proclamation calling on Peking to "respond positively" to the democratic aspirations of Chinese demonstrators who were violently suppressed a year ago.

Bush signed a congressional proclamation naming Sunday, May 13, a National Day in support of human rights.

The proclamation asked Americans to observe the day "in the spirit of commemorating those who died" around Peking's Tiananmen Square during a Chinese military crackdown.

It said people should observe the day, "drawing inspiration from the courage of those who held fast to their ideals in the face of violent suppression, and urging the Chinese government to respond positively to the fundamental aspirations for freedom expressed in last year's demonstrations."

"These are the same fundamental aspirations as profoundly expressed by people around the world during the momentous events we are still witnessing — events that are daily advancing the cause of freedom and human rights."

Congress passed the proclamation Friday and sent it to the president.

Bush, the U.S. diplomatic representative to Peking in the mid-1970s, has been criticised for failing to take stricter economic and political measures to show displeasure with China's repressive and violent tactics.

The proclamation notes the June 3-4 violent attacks on thousands of Chinese protesters by tanks and armed forces.

"This action, far beyond the legitimate requirements of law and order, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of unarmed citizens," Bush's statement said.

"In the months that followed, thousands more were detained and otherwise punished for their peaceful expression of political views."

However, he stated, "steps have been taken in recent months that have resulted in some improvement."

"The United States hopes that these steps will be followed by others that will demonstrate China's return to the path of reform," Bush said.

"Citizens democratic corps"

By Denis D. Gray Associated Press

MAELETA, Burma (AP) — Companions said Soe Win, a villager kidnapped by Burmese troops, collapsed on a forced border trek, his strength sapped by lung disease and the huge load of rice and mortar shells on his back.

Because he was no longer useful as a porter, they said, a soldier of the 66th Infantry Division smashed Soe Win's head against a rock half a dozen times and kicked his lifeless body down the mountainside. Two other porters said they witnessed the death and were able to escape.

Many stories like theirs are heard along the frontier between Thailand and Burma. A decades-old war between Burma's repressive government and ethnic minorities seeking autonomy has turned the frontier into a region of brutality, deceit and despoiled environment. And a growing tide of refugees is beginning to alarm foreign aid agencies.

The war initially attracted little

3 Bogota car bombs kill 25

BOGOTA (AP) — Three car bombs exploded Saturday in Colombia, killing 25 people and wounding at least 163 in a wave of attacks apparently carried out by drug traffickers, officials and radio reports said.

Two car bombs exploded Saturday in shopping areas of Bogota, killing at least 19 people and wounding 143 — 13 critically, the Health Ministry said.

No one claimed immediate responsibility, but police Col. Jose Camelo said the bombs were the work of drug traffickers.

Hours later, six people were killed and at least 20 more were wounded when another car bomb exploded outside a restaurant packed with customers in the southern city of Cali, the Caracol Radio network reported.

Authorities said the bombings were part of a war between drug traffickers in Medellin and a rival group in Cali for control of the New York City cocaine market.

Since the war began in 1988, more than 50 persons have died in bombings targeting Cali cartel properties.

The government has also

blamed traffickers for dozens of bombings that have killed about 200 people in the last eight months. Many of those bombings were aimed at forcing the government to give up its tactic of arresting traffickers and extraditing them to the United States for trial on drug charges there.

Hundreds of policemen and soldiers swarmed into the bombed-out areas of Bogota to prevent looting.

Every available policeman and soldier was ordered into the capital's streets to look for more bombs and to try to find the bombers, the Defence Ministry reported.

The wounded were sent to five hospitals and a red cross station, which all appealed for blood donations.

The two bombs in the capital exploded within minutes of each other about 4:15 p.m. (2115 GMT). One bomb was at the Niza Shopping Centre in northern Bogota and the other at the Cafam Shopping Centre in a working class neighbourhood of Quirigua in northwest Bogota, the radio network RCN reported.

Two people were killed there, said Bogota Mayor Andres Pastana in a live broadcast interview.

The two shopping centres were packed with people making last minute purchases for Mother's Day the following day when the bombs exploded, RCN reported.

The bombs damaged buildings, cars, taxis and buses and set some vehicles ablaze.

Many of those injured in Quirigua had been passengers aboard a commuter bus that was passing by when the bomb exploded, estimates to contain 220-pounds of dynamite, exploded, RCN said.

Four children, including a 4-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl, were among the dead in Quirigua, RCN reported.

The blast caused extensive damage to several buildings, radio reports said.

The bomb in the Niza neighbourhood exploded in a shopping centre parking lot across the street from a new three story shopping mall where 20 foot high plate glass windows exploded upon shoppers inside.

Two people were killed there, said Bogota Mayor Andres Pastana in a live broadcast interview.

Even though the chiefs have been forced to suggest the cuts, that doesn't mean they are happy with them or want to see them finalised, several sources said.

Despite the suggestion that the navy's carrier fleet could be reduced, Navy Secretary Lawrence Garrett III still intends to argue for 14 carrier battle groups, one source said.

"Cooper wants at least 21 (Trident) submarines. Garrett wants 14 carriers," the source said.

The official said the navy wants an option to readjust its programme so that it could switch funds around and "buy back" ships in the future if world events sour, the source said.

Military to present pared-down plans for U.S. defence spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's military leaders open negotiations this week with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on pared-down spending proposals that by 1997 would cut six divisions from the army, slash dozens of warships and defer missile programmes, Pentagon sources said.

The spending plans, which were drafted by the civilian and military chiefs for the army, navy and air force, were formally submitted to Cheney's office on May 1.

"There are no surprises here," said one source, who noted that the proposals, which cover the years 1992-97, are far from being finalised. "It's a submission. The final decisions are up to Cheney, up to the president."

All of the officials who spoke of the plans did so on condition of anonymity, given that the plans are considered classified.

The chiefs' suggestions came as Capitol Hill is putting great pressure on Cheney to clarify the Pentagon's long-range spending goals in this time of reduced superpower tensions and reduced chance of a major land war in Europe.

Lawmakers complain they can't debate President George Bush's \$303-billion budget submission for fiscal 1991 without this guidance.

Some want to slash \$15 billion to \$20 billion from the single-year spending plan, while Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn has set his limit at \$298 billion, a number

that makes sharply reduced Pentagon spending a near certainty.

Following a formal presentation on strategy Monday by Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, each of the services will present their arguments about their recommendations to Cheney over a period of several days, another source said.

The secretary must make the final decisions about the proposals sometime this summer as part of the Pentagon's complex budget process. Bush will submit his 1992 budget to Congress next January.

Cheney has ordered the service chiefs to cut spending by 2 per cent below the rate of inflation in each year from 1992 to 1997, and in that light, the plans are supposed to be the first thorough review of the military's long-term needs.

"They are now in the secretary's hands, and now the real debate begins," said one Pentagon source.

Many of the proposals have been reported in recent weeks as the service chiefs debated their options. The Pentagon sources said the major points include:

— Reducing active duty army forces by six divisions, which would cut the active duty force to 580,000 from 764,000.

— Paring the army's reserve force from the current 776,000 to 645,000.

— Slashing the navy's ship strength from 542 to 448.

— Cutting carrier battle groups from 14 to 12, while seeking a new aircraft carrier in 1996.

— Stopping Trident submarine

Quake causes damage in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — An earthquake registering 6.7 on the Richter scale shook New Zealand's North Island Sunday, destroying a two-story building and shattering windows as well as nerves, officials said.

Officials said they had no reports of injuries.

The quake, which struck at 4:23 p.m. (0523 GMT), destroyed a building in the town of Dannevirke, officials said.

Sue Emery, editor of the Dannevirke Evening News newspaper, said police had blocked off the

town's main thoroughfare to clean up the debris and to clear dozens of shattered window panes.

There was no power in the town for an hour after the tremor.

"The quake felt horrendous," said Emery. "It's pretty chaotic here. People are going in all directions."

The quake was felt in the capital of Wellington, 274 kilometres southwest of Dannevirke, as a rolling motion lasting several seconds.

Dr. Marion Leiba, a spokeswoman for the Australian Seismological Centre in Canberra, said the epicenter of the quake appeared to be offshore, roughly 150 miles northeast of Wellington, in the South Pacific.

A Dannevirke police spokesman, Senior Constable Les Trigg, confirmed one building had collapsed and said a shopping plaza had been sealed off after large concrete beams cracked, exposing the steel reinforcement.

No further details were immediately available.

approaches that of the army.

The border campaign has spurred flight into Thailand, increasing the number of refugees in the frontier area to at least 40,000. Most are from ethnic minorities, but they also include Burmese students and other dissidents, several thousand of whom joined the rebels during the 1988 repression.



Bush chides press for shirking exercise

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (R) — President George Bush has jokingly lectured the White House press corps about shirking exercise, telling journalists they should follow his example and "get out there and run."

"A fit America is a strong America. A fit America should include photo dogs (his pet name for news photographers), as well as print reporters who slovenly sit ... while some of us are out running," he told reporters in his entourage after completing an early morning two-mile run. "You lazy guys, get out there and run," he said.

Bardot goes on TV

PARIS (AP) — Brigitte Bardot went on national television and used graphic film footage to condemn the capture and sale of wild animals. Miss Bardot, 55, was the host of "SOS Animal Trafficking," the latest in a series on animal abuse. Other programmes have targeted vivisection, the ivory trade, and the slaughter of elephants. The sex symbol-turned-animal rights activist said public reaction to her programmes has been overwhelmingly positive. "Hunters have sent me their hunting licenses, tourists have burned their ivory bracelets, doctors support me in my fight against vivisection, and the sale of horse meat in France has dropped by 30 per cent," she said.

Woman hospitalised after 4-year 'Chernobyl phobia'

LANGEBOOM, Netherlands (AP) — A 24-year-old Dutch woman has been hospitalised after years of living under a plastic sheet and eating canned food for fear of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, police said Saturday. The woman spent at least two years wrapped in the sheet and left her couch in the family home only to go to the bathroom, according to national police spokesman, Arie Van Turnhout. An investigation revealed that the woman hadn't washed and ate only canned food since the April 30, 1986, explosion of the Soviet nuclear power plant, Van Turnhout told the Associated Press. She was hospitalised last month with an inflamed bladder after her parents

High-roller loses \$10m at Trump casino

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — A high-rolling gambler from Japan who took \$6.2 million from casino owner Donald Trump in February came back this week for another try, but this time he went home having lost about \$10 million behind, a casino spokesman said.

A spokesman for the Trump Plaza here said that Akio Kashiwagi, a 53-year-old Tokyo real estate investor, had spent most of the week playing baccarat and at one point was winning more than \$9 million. Gamblers who watched at the table where Kashiwagi and two friends were playing said the bet was often \$200,000 a hand. Baccarat is a game played against the house in which each hand tries to get closest to nine with 10 through king cards counting as zero. A spokesman quoted Trump as saying "we had a good run" as the casino turned the \$9.6 million loss into a gain of roughly the same size. Kashiwagi tried to resume play, but the casino declined to accept his bets. "Frankly, you have to be in the mood," Trump said, according to his spokesman, who added that he did not know if Kashiwagi would try again.

Son of Chicago mob chief wins share of Illinois lottery

CHICAGO (AP) — They say that Anthony, "Big Tuna" Accardo made part of his fortune from illegal gambling. But his son just became a millionaire on a perfectly legal, one-dollar bet. Anthony Ross Accardo stepped forward this week to claim his share of \$5.9 million Illinois state lottery jackpot. The younger Accardo, 34, and his partner, Joseph P. Cohen, 44, held a ticket that won half of the first prize from the April 7 Jotto drawing. The two said they were forming the "C and A Partnership" to receive the payments. "The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Accardo is the son of 'Big Tuna' Accardo, 84. The younger Accardo, who has no criminal record, is a member of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union. He said he would use his share of the winnings to take an early retirement."

